Chief Secretaries' Conference for Power Projects

3647. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was held in New Delhi at the behest of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the Conference;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not yet placed orders for projects totalling 11,125 MW of power;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to speed up the process of placement of orders for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Secretary's Conference was held on 19th February, 2008 in New Delhi to discuss Power Sector issues.

(b) The following items were discussed:

- Accelerated Capacity Addition: Ordering of all 11th Plan projects to be completed by March, 2008.
- Reduction of AT&C losses to 15%.
- Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.
- Implementation of Open Access in Transmission & Distribution.
- Strengthening Intra-state Transmission & Distribution systems under the State Sector.

(c) to (e) States are yet to place orders in respect of projects aggregating 7543 MW included in the original 11th Plan list due to non tying up of various inputs/clearances. Ministry of Power has been actively interacting and monitoring through meeting/discussions with the State Governments, with BHEL as well as with State Power Utilities, including through two Chief Secretaries' Conferences, and one Chief Ministers' Conference.

Tripping of Northern Grid

3648. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern Grid has again near about collapsed, this time due to excess power supply, as demand dipped due to sudden rain in the Northern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States are drawing excess power from the Northern Grid stating the demand and supply position of different States drawing power from the Northern Grid; and

(d) what has been done to ensure safety of the Grid and back up supply in case of failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There was reduction in demand by about 4700 MW in Northern Region during

the early morning hours of 3rd April 2008 due to rain. The reduction in demand was handled by reducing import of 1500 MW power, exporting 1400 MW power to neighbouring regions and backing down 1450 MW generation at coal and gas stations in Northern Region. The marginal surplus resulted in system frequency in the range of 50-50.2 Hz., which was within permissible limit.

(c) There is a continuing shortage of power in the Northern Region, leading to overdraw of power from the grid by the states with a view to increase availability of power. All the states in Northern Region except Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh had over-drawn from the grid during March, 2008.

(d) As per provisions of Electricity Act, 2003, Regional Load Dispatch Centres continuously monitor and take necessary actions to maintain the security of the Regional Grids in real time. The operational matters concerning stability and smooth operation of the Regional Grids are also discussed regularly in the respective Regional Power Committee.

Regarding back-up supply in case of failure, mock exercises for black-start of hydro units, islanded operation and synchronization with main Grid are done, by Regional Load Dispatch Centres, periodically, to test the readiness of equipment as well as operating personnel.

Advanced power execution system by PGCIL

3649. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) proposes to adopt world's most advanced power execution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether preliminary experiments on such system have since been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the advanced power execution system are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) proposes to adopt the world's most advanced power evacuation system. These include the ±800 kV, High voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission technology and 1200 kV Ultra High Voltage (UHV) AC technology.

(c) to (e) For ± 800 kV HVDC technology, preliminary studies with respect to HVDC configuration, transmission line design, capacity of HVDC system, location of terminal stations etc. have been completed. Similarly, other technical studies regarding insulation levels, requirement for HVDC controls, interaction studies with existing schemes etc. have been accomplished. Based on the results of these studies, design and technical specifications have been prepared. The requisite tests necessary before actual implementation shall be conducted. This HVDC bipole is proposed to be commissioned matching with hydro projects in North-Eastern/Sikkim.

For 1200 kV AC technology, a few preliminary studies have been completed and PGCIL is establishing a test station at Bina.